Gazette des Beaux-Arts. It gave me a great deal of trouble; this amounts to saying that it did me a great deal of good.[33]

Reflected at very great length on what "art criticism" can be (and especially on what it cannot be).

Plunged from nine o'clock until midnight in a religious contemplation of some photographs of Polyclitus' works (reading Collignon).[34]

Copied from Delacroix's *Journal* a wonderful passage on the "theory of decadence" for little Louis Rouart

22 November

Last corrections to my article for the *Gazette.* In order not to shock his public, Roger Marx asked me to suppress a coda on Cezanne and Renoir. The coda was rather ordinary, so that I easily fell in with his request; but the article, with its abrupt end, seems fll arranged. The lack of volume of everything I write distresses me, but I can't do anything about it. My great hostility toward prolixity, facile fluency, and patter is the cause of it.

I long for a hidden eloquence.

. . . My mind still anxious at not being able to decide what to tacHe. I have before me Collignon's *Sculpture grecque,* Nyrop's *Grammaire frangaise* and the *Histoire de la litterature anglaise* by Jusserand — which all tempt me equally. For each of these works I need a month of unbroken study; my mind is still too restless to choose and to limit me exclusively to my choice. I have left everything in the air: Pascal, Taine's *Correspondance,* Stendhal's *Journal.* These are readings that one can easily drop and pick up anywhere and that I prefer not to read to the end at one time. But one must at least be able to pick them up conveniently at the point where one left them. At Auteuil I am going to have a special shelf where the books I have begun will

stand waiting for me; each one will have its bookmark, which I shall occasionally move a few pages. That will allow me, dropping the book and picking it up at will, never to read anything without giving myself to it wholly.

From Athman's latest letter I copy this sentence that Mardrus would not understand and that I should like not to forget:

"I love her very much" (he is speaking of his very young wife) "and *yet I have been able to make her sincere* toward my mother and me; she is very good, and I only treat her very gently like how you treat a child."

[38] Gide's *Promenade au Salon dAutomne* is in the fourth volume of the *CEuvres completes,* wrongly dated by the editor.

[84] *Histoire de la sculpture grecque (History of Greek Sculpture)* (1892-97), by Maxime Collignon, contains photographs of works by Polyclitus, who was, after Phidias, the most celebrated sculptor of antiquity.